

(b) whether a large number of employees were abruptly thrown out of employment;

(c) whether the Government issued subsequently order for employing the employees of the said corporation in other departments;

(d) whether despite orders, most of the employees have not yet been given employment; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). U.P. State Brushware Corporation Ltd., Moradabad is a State Government undertaking and as such it is not within the administrative jurisdiction of the Central Government.

Revival of 'The Sathe Biscuits and Chocolates Ltd.'

2112. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that 'The State Biscuits and Chocolates Ltd.' Pune has stopped its production and closed its working;

(b) whether the above company was declared 'sick' and the BIFR was trying to revive the company;

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made so far by the BIFR for revival of the company?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that M/s. Sathe Biscuits and Chocolates Company Limited was registered with it in 1991 under section 3(1) (O) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). The BIFR directed the Operating Agency (OA) to issue advertisement seeking offers for change in company's management. In response to the advertisement, a number of enquiries were received. The promoters of the company alongwith a co-promoter also submitted a revised revival proposal. The BIFR in its hearing held on 10.09.1996 directed the OA to examine and analyse the proposal from the point of view of its technical, commercial and economic viability and discuss the matter with all concerned.

Indo-Italian Economic Cooperation

2113. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the Indo-Italian economic cooperation since the onset of liberalisation process in July 1991 till September 1996;

(b) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposal approved so far/under consideration and their likely impact on the economy of the country;

(c) whether the Government have initiated the dialogue between the policy makers, businessmen and professionals of the two countries and if so, the details of the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of strategies worked out for promotion of FDI from Italy in industrial ventures and promotion of exports and targets set and realised so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Indo-Italian Economic Cooperation is generally monitored and reviewed at the meetings of the Indo-Italian Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation. Since July, 1991 three meetings of the Joint Committee have been held. During 1996, the Italian Government has also committed soft loans of 100 billion Lire to India.

Besides interaction at official levels, interactions between the businessmen of the two countries have also taken place through a large number of visits by business delegations. These interactions have resulted in a significant increase in bilateral trade and economic activities.

Promotion of FDI from Italy, and exports to Italy is being done by dissemination of information through various channels and fora including Indian Embassy in Rome, and through frequent interaction between Indian and Italian partners.

Indian exports to Italy have increased from US\$ 558.47m. in 1990-91 to US\$ 1016.5 m. in 1995-96. Exports amounted to US\$ 378.83 million during April to August, 1996. 186 foreign direct investment proposals from Italy have been approved from August, 1991 upto September, 1996. 14 FDI proposals were approved between April and September, 1996.

Opening of Insurance/Banking Sector for Foreign Companies

2114. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the observations of the World Economic Forum wherein it has been stated that opening of Indian insurance and banking sector, for foreign companies is essential to achieve the target growth percentage; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have seen some Press reports on the reported observations of the World Economic Forum 1995-96 held on October 27-29, 1996 at New Delhi. The policy of the Government in this regard has been laid down in the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government which says that: "There is room for public sector companies to co-exist and compete in the

financial sector. We have gained considerable experience in the working of the banking sector. The said experience will be applied to the restructuring of the insurance industry, but at the same time, public sector companies like LIC, GIC, etc. will be strengthened".

Subsequently, in July 1996, it was stated in the Budget speech that :

"An interim, non-statutory Insurance Regulatory Authority was set up in January, 1996. I now propose to introduce a Bill to make it a statutory body and to empower it suitably. When I return to the subject of insurance in the next Budget, I shall address some of the policy parameters outlined in the CMP, including the sequence of steps for the restructuring of the insurance industry".

The Government is currently processing a Bill for giving statutory basis to the Insurance Regulatory Authority set up in January, 1996. Other measures for reform of the insurance sector are being examined in consultation with the Insurance Regulatory Authority.

Setting up of PSUs

2115. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up industries in Public Sector Undertakings in the country particularly in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to set up industries in public sector undertakings in the country including Orissa.

Linking of Human Rights and Child Labour with Trade Agreements under W.T.O.

2116. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some developed countries are seeking to link human rights and child labour with trade agreements under World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details of such countries;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with the developing countries; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Some developed countries like USA and Norway have proposed that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) discuss the relationship between trade and core labour standards in the WTO.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The matter was discussed with other developing countries in the Preparatory Meeting to the Singapore Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi in September 1996. In addition, India is continuously coordinating her position with other like minded countries in opposing such a linkage. The outcome on this issue will be decided at the WTO Singapore Ministerial Conference to be held from December 9-13, 1996.

Rehabilitation of families affected due to Mining Operation

2117. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether 49 mouzas in West Bengal have been declared unsafe and unstable for habitation by the Director General of Mines Safety due to coal mining operation;

(b) if so, the total number of families affected;

(c) the steps taken for the shifting and rehabilitation of the people of those mouzas; and

(d) the funds sanctioned and allocated for rehabilitation of the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. An Apex Monitoring Committee consisting of representatives of the coal company, District Administration, Director General of Mines Safety, Central Mining Research Institute and public figures (MLAs, MPs) was constituted to examine 49 unstable localities of Raniganj Coalfield. This Committee opined that 38 localities covering an area of 11.8 sq. kms. are unsafe.

(b) As per assessment made by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited in 1992, a total of 24468 houses in the 49 unstable localities are affected.

(c) and (d). Instead of shifting and rehabilitation of the people of 49 unstable localities, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) have taken steps for stabilisation of the old underground workings. As a step towards this direction, the innovative technology of hydro-pneumatic sand stowing is being given field trial in two localities. In order to establish this technology through experience gained over a wider area, two more localities have been taken up for this purpose.

Projects under Eastern Coalfield Limited

2118. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new projects under Eastern Coalfields Ltd. on which work has been started recently;